

Based on experimental and computer modeling results, the universal inhibitor is evidently TXTY TZ, where T is Thr, X is either Ala or Gly, Y is either Ala, Thr or Val, Z is either Ile or Val.

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What is claimed is:

1. A bioactive peptide to prevent or treat bacterial infections, said peptide corresponding to the structure of the active sites of amino-terminal extension of subunits assembling surface adhesive organelles of pathogenic Gram-negative bacteria.

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2. The peptide according to claim 1, wherein the pathogenic bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *Yersinia* and *Escherichia coli*.

3. The peptide according to claim 1 comprising the amino acid sequence X-Thr-X-Thr-Y-Y, wherein X is any amino acid and Y is a hydrophobic amino acid.

4. The peptide according to claim 3 wherein Y is Leu or Val.

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5. A peptide inhibitor against pathogenic *Escherichia coli* strains, the peptide comprising a sequence TXTY TZ, wherein T is Thr, X is selected from the group consisting of Ala and Gly, Y is selected from the group consisting of Ala, Thr, and Val, and Z is selected from the group consisting of Ile and Val.

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6. The bioactive peptide according to claim 1, wherein the peptide prevents binding of equal protein units with each other and is capable of binding with a binding constant of 10^3 M or higher with a polymerising protein unit.
- 5 7. The bioactive peptide according to claim 6, wherein the peptide is effective in preventing self-polymerization of bacterial virulence organelles in a concentration less than 10^{-4} M.
8. An antimicrobial peptide inhibiting polymerisation of Dr haemagglutinin, said
10 peptide comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of GTTGTTKL, TTGTTKL and TTKL.
9. A method to treat bacterial infections by administering to the patient a therapeutically active amount of the bioactive peptide of claim 1.
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10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the peptide is further bound to a small molecular or macromolecular substance, thereby increasing the stability of the peptide.
- 20 11. The method according to claim 9 wherein the peptide is applied orally, subcutaneously, or injected into blood circulation.
12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the peptide is applied in a concentration between 10^{-4} M to 10^{-10} M in sera during prevention or treatment of
25 microbial infections.

13. A method for obtaining bioactive peptides according to claim 1, the method comprising the steps of:

- 5 a) Cultivating a non pathogenic test microbial strain expressing recombinant self-polymerizing surface organelles of a bacterium;
- b) Adding a candidate compound of antibacterial drug into a mixture of the self-polymerising organelles in an appropriate concentration;
- c) Investigating degree of polymerisation of the surface organelle; and
- 10 d) Judging that the compound has an antivirulence action when the polymerisation is lowered.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the microbial strain expressing recombinant surface organelles is *Escherichia coli* and the polymerising surface organelle is from
15 *Yersinia*.

15. An inhibitor molecule being effective in:
preventing non-covalent polymerisation of bacterial virulence surface organelles,
preventing binding of equal protein units; and
20 associating with a binding constant of 10^3 M or higher with the polymerising protein units.

16. The inhibitor molecule according to claim 15, wherein the molecule is a peptide effective in preventing self-polymerization of bacterial virulence surface organelles
25 in a concentration less than 10^{-4} M.